

ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

10/4/2011

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FORUM TAKEAWAYS

An enthusiastic crowd of over two hundred students, parents, alumni, elected officials, and community leaders attended an open forum hosted by the Achievement School District at Hamilton High School on Tuesday, 10/4/2011. Following an overview of the Achievement School District's purpose and goals presented by Superintendent Chris Barbic, meeting attendees broke into small groups to address the following questions:

- What should Hamilton continue doing to bolster student achievement?
- What should Hamilton initiate to improve student performance?
- Which policies and/or procedures are currently not contributing to the success of Hamilton students and should therefore be eliminated?

The answers compiled below are the results of the breakaway sessions and represent the suggestions of Hamilton alumni, parents, students, etc. who have a vested interest in the endurance and enrichment of their school.

KEEP DOING

1. Conducting community outreach meetings/workshops
2. Motivating students to go to college or vocational school after graduation
3. Decreasing the number of suspensions and expulsions
4. Decreasing the number of violent incidents on campus
5. Offering financial planning classes and educating students on available scholarships
6. Hiring and retaining dedicated teachers and administrators, like Mr. Bates.
7. Offering a variety of dual enrollment and AP classes
8. Scoring higher than other Memphis schools on standardized tests

START DOING

1. Developing students' interpersonal and communication skills
2. Involving more community members, alumni, parents, mentors, tutors, etc. in the day to day activities of the school
3. Setting up monthly parent meetings/open houses
4. Reinstating vocational classes that prepare students for the real world
5. Informing students about internships and volunteer opportunities that build their resumes
6. Offering more hands on activities for diverse learners

7. Increasing the sheer amount of work in and out of class

STOP DOING

1. Accepting excuses from administrators, teachers, parents, and students
2. Socially promoting students
3. Focusing on negative news/attention
4. Threatening to take over or close Hamilton
5. Spending money on resources and equipment that do not improve student achievement
6. Being lenient on discipline
7. Alienating alumni
8. Making excuses for bad teachers and problem students